Forests cover area in Arunachal Pradesh

603. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total forest cover on all India basis in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to increase the forest cover area in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per the State of Forest Report, 1991, the actual forest cover in Arunachal Pradesh is 68,757 sq. kms. based on visual interpretation of the Landsat imagery pertaining to the period 1987—89 and it is the second state next only to Madhya Pradesh having the largest area under forest cover in the country.

(b) All the State Governments including Arunachal Pradesh have undertaken measures for conservation and extension of forests/tree cover. Steps taken in this direction are mentioned below:

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988 aims at ensuring environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all life forms, human, animal and plant. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim.

2. The Forest (Conservation) Act enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose has been made more stringent by an amendment in 1988.

3 Besides, the Government of India have issued guidelines to all the States/U.T. Governments, brief details of which are given below:

(i) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(ii) To avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such felling is inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(iii) Government of India have also issued guidelines for peoples' participation in the management and development of degraded forests and their active involvement in afforestation programme.

4. A massive programme of afforestation including social and farm forestry involving peoples' participation is being pursued under the 20 Point Programme.

Selling of Fake Degrees and Diplomas

604. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 26th May, 1992 to the effect of flourshing of Delhi Career Academy in selling fake degrees and diplomas in almost all systems of medicine; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Medical Council of India have approached Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission for initiating necessary action against Delhi Career Academy.